

Cancel claims 2, 14, 15, 17 and 18.

Amend claim 1, to read as follows¹:

1. (amended) An integral gasketed filtration cassette structure comprising:

(a) a filtration cassette comprising a multilaminate array of sheet members of generally rectangular and generally planar shape with main top and bottom surfaces, wherein the sheet members include in sequence in the array a terminal end plate, a first retentate sheet, a first filter sheet, a permeate sheet, a second filter sheet, and a second retentate sheet, and a second terminal end plate, wherein each of the sheet members in the array has at least one inlet basin opening at one end thereof, and at least one outlet basin opening at an opposite end thereof, with at least one permeate passage opening;

each of the first and second retentate sheets having at least one channel opening therein, wherein each channel opening extends longitudinally between the inlet and outlet basin openings of the sheets in the array and is open through the entire thickness of the retentate sheet, and with each of the first and second retentate sheets being bonded to an adjacent filter sheet about peripheral end and side portions thereof, with their basin openings and permeate passage openings in register with one another, and arranged to permit flow of filtrate through the channel openings of the retentate sheet between the inlet and outlet basin openings to permit permeate flow through the filter sheet to the permeate sheet to the permeate passage openings;

wherein each of the filter sheets is secured at its peripheral portions on a face thereof opposite the retentate sheet, to the permeate sheet;

(b) at least one thin gasket layer bonded to a surface of said filtration cassette and forming an integral unitary structure with said filtration cassette, wherein said thin gasket layer comprises an elastomeric material for forming a fluid-tight seal between the filtration cassette and an adjacent structure when engaged therewith, wherein said thin gasket layer has a thickness in a range of

¹ Consistent with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.121, a marked-up version of amended claim 1 is set forth in Appendix A hereof; a clean version of all pending claims 1, 3-13, 16 and 19 is set forth in Appendix B hereof.

from about 0.01 inch to not more than 0.3 inch, and comprises an elastomeric material having a durometer hardness in a range of from about 30 to about 80.

Add new claim 19, as follows:

19. (new) An integral gasketed filtration cassette structure comprising:

a filtration cassette comprising a multilaminate array of sheet members of generally rectangular and generally planar shape with main top and bottom surfaces, wherein the sheet members include in sequence in the array a terminal end plate, a first retentate sheet, a first filter sheet, a permeate sheet, a second filter sheet, and a second retentate sheet, and a second terminal end plate, wherein each of the sheet members in the array has at least one inlet basin opening at one end thereof, and at least one outlet basin opening at an opposite end thereof, with at least one permeate passage opening;

each of the first and second retentate sheets having at least one channel opening therein, wherein each channel opening extends longitudinally between the inlet and outlet basin openings of the sheets in the array and is open through the entire thickness of the retentate sheet, and with each of the first and second retentate sheets being bonded to an adjacent filter sheet about peripheral end and side portions thereof, with their basin openings and permeate passage openings in register with one another, and arranged to permit flow of filtrate through the channel openings of the retentate sheet between the inlet and outlet basin openings to permit permeate flow through the filter sheet to the permeate sheet to the permeate passage openings;

wherein each of the filter sheets is secured at its peripheral portions on a face thereof opposite the retentate sheet, to the permeate sheet;

at least one thin gasket layer bonded to a surface of said filtration cassette and forming an integral unitary structure with said filtration cassette, wherein said thin gasket layer comprises an elastomeric material for forming a fluid-tight seal between the filtration cassette and an adjacent structure when engaged therewith, wherein said thin gasket layer has a thickness of not more than 0.3 inch, and comprises a silicone material having a durometer hardness in a range of from about 30 to about 80, and wherein said thin gasket layer fully encapsulates said filtration cassette.
